



HB 603 Testimony
House Higher Education & Workforce Committee
November 28, 2018
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Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce

Chairman Duffey and members of the Ohio House Higher Education and Workforce Committee. I'm Chris Kershner, Executive Vice President of the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce. The Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce represents over 2,400 businesses, which employ over 200,000 employees in a 10 county region. Additionally, we provide direct advocacy and support for our service men and women in our region, specifically at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Wright-Patterson Air Force Base remains the #1 single site employer in the State of Ohio, with over 28,000 direct employees on base. Service members at WPAFB and other Ohio military installations are often transient and will receive new base assignments every two years. This means that there are new service members and their dependents that are new to Ohio every two years.

HB 603 will honor the service of these members and their dependents by making them eligible for in-state college tuition on the 1st day of their arrival in Ohio. This critical legislation will incentivize service men and women and their dependents to take advantage of Ohio's rich college network immediately. These service members have dedicated their lives and their careers to serving our country and because of this unique circumstance, they don't always have the same opportunity to establish residency in a state, as someone who isn't a service member.

As Ohio continues to support and position itself as a military friendly state, HB 603 will have a positive impact. Passage of HB 603 will make Ohio a more attractive destination as future military missions (aka Ohio jobs) are considered to be located in Ohio.

Thank you for your time and I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.